(e) There is a constant interaction and coordination among designers, manufacturers and users of MBT Arjun both formally and informally. Various committees and groups consisting of participants from all these three agencies are constantly scrutinising evaluating and suggesting various options for this programme.

Seminar on the American Constitution

2019. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ford Foundation held a Seminar in Srinagar recently on the American Constitution and Democratic Systems;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that eminent persons like the Chief Justice of India had participated in the Seminar; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what is Government's reaction to allowing a foreign agency to conduct such seminars which are not relevant to the work of the voluntary agencies they are helping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Ford Foundation did not hold any Seminar in Srinagar recently on the "American Constitution and Democratic Systems". However, the Indian Institute of Public Administration, Jammu & Kashmir Regional Branch had organised a seminar on "The American Constitution: Guarantor of Freedom" in Srinagar from September, 26 to 29, 1987 in collaboration with the United States Information Service The Chief Justice of India inaugurated this seminar on September 26, 1987.

Sri Lankan Refugees

2020 SHRI T R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees who have been sent back to Sri Lanka;

(b) whether India have got any assurance or guarantee from Sri Lanka to rehabilitate these refugees in Sri Lanka; and

(c) what is the total number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who are still in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) Nil

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 114472

Acquisition of 81 M/M. ammunition through M/s. Simmel of Italy

2021. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 81 m. m. illuminated ammunition was acquired through M/s. Simmel, an Italian Shell manufacturer and found to be defective and subsequently rejected; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the contract entered into with M/s. Simmel in this regard, the value of the contract and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) It is a fact that 81 mm illuminating Ammunition was imported from M/s Simmels, Italy under three contracts concluded during the period July, 1977 to June, 1982 The ammunition received from M/s. Simmels was check-proved and found acceptable by the ispection agency.

Non-Implementation of Report of Bombay Natural History Society by the IAF

2022 SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force is not keen to implement the recommendations made by the Bombay Natural History Society to prevent bird-hit hazards to aircraft;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Air Headquarters have decided to drop the project of planting Dhub grass, also known as Bermuda grass, which discourages birds from taking shelter in it; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) This recommendation of the Bombay Natural History Society was not found cost effective However, this question is being re-examined in consultation with the Bombay Natural History Society The result of Dhub grass planting by the Civil Aviation authorities in one of their airfields, is also being watched to derive appropriate lessons therefrom.

Damage to Naval Dockyard, Bombay

2023. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the civilian employees of the Indian Naval Dockyard in Bombay caused a great deal of damage to the property of the dockyard in September last;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent recurrence of such types of incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) On 29th September, 1987, about 2000 employees assembled in the Dockyard and demanded payment of wages on that day itself They shouted slogans and then turned violent, damaging some Service vehicles, private vehicles and other Government property. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate into the circumstances leading to the incident and the extent of damage done.

(c) Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Board of Inquiry. Meanwhile, the Naval Headquarters have issued instructions to all concerned to ensure against such incidents.

Persons living below poverty line in Rajasthan

2024 SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons living below poverty line in Rajasthan and what is their percentage vis-a-vis other States; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve their economic conditions in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) According to the latest Statewise estimates of persons below poverty line for the year 1983-84 which are based on the 38th round of NSS of Household Consumer Expenditure, 126 2 lakh persons were below poverty line in the State of Rajasthan. The statement indicating percentage of persons below poverty line in Rajasthan vis-a-vis other States in 1983-84 is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No 83]

(b) Removal of poverty remains a central concern of Planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan development strategy and the pattern of growth envisaged is expected to lead to reduction in poverty. The emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, implementation of the minimum needs programme, and expansion of irrigation facilities will make a substantial contribution to reduction of poverty In addition, the Seventh Plan also includes a number of anti-poverty and employment promotion programmes specifically de-